

SENIOR ZOO KEEPER*Class Definition*

Under general supervision, provides lead direction to subordinate staff; feeds and cares for exhibit animals; cleans and performs maintenance work on zoo buildings and grounds.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Senior Zoo Keeper is the advanced working/lead class in the Zoo Keeper series. Incumbents act as leadworkers, overseeing and participating in the feeding and care, and performing maintenance work necessary for the health and well-being, of exhibit animals. This class is distinguished from Zoo Keeper in that incumbents of that class perform journey level assignments and do not act as leadworkers.

Typical Tasks

(This list is neither inclusive nor exclusive. Consequently, this information may not reflect Essential Functions for this class.)

Provides lead direction to subordinate staff involved in the maintenance and care of one or more zoo exhibits.

Issues equipment and supplies and controls keys to storage areas and other zoo facilities.

Assists in the training of employees and volunteers in the proper techniques of animal care and exhibit maintenance.

Carries out instructions for transfer and capture of animals.

Prepares feed and feeds animals at designated times; cuts meat and vegetables, and cleans fish, for feeding to animals; sees that animals have sufficient water.

Checks animals for signs of illness or disorder; reports irregularities to supervisor or veterinarian.

Maintains feeding, health, and welfare records on exhibit animals.

Cleans and disinfects cages, corrals, stalls, and pools; maintains cleanliness throughout the day.

Answers questions from the public pertaining to the zoo, animals, and related matters.

Watches for, and reports, any vandalism or mistreatment of animals.

Crates and moves animals as directed.

Operates equipment necessary for the maintenance of zoo grounds and uses a portable radio for routine and emergency communications.

Performs related duties as required.

Knowledge, Abilities, and Skills

Considerable knowledge of the temperament, characteristics, behavioral and breeding habits, and custodial care of undomesticated and domesticated animals.

Knowledge of the dietary needs of zoo animals.

Knowledge of the specific custodial, feeding, and minor veterinary care requirements of assigned animals.

Ability to work with wild, delicate, and dangerous animals.

Ability to deal courteously and tactfully with the public and other employees.

Ability to assist in training and provide lead direction to subordinate employees and volunteers.

Skill in caring for and handling undomesticated and potentially dangerous animals.

Minimum Qualifications

Thirty units of accredited college level course work in animal science, zoology, biology, wildlife management, or related field; and two years of journey level paid experience in the care, handling, and feeding of animals in a zoo setting. Additional qualifying experience may be substituted for the required education on the basis that fifteen semester units equals one year of experience.

Special Requirement

Possession of a valid California Driver's License may be required at time of appointment.

Recruitment may be limited to a specific animal expertise, such as elephants, birds, amphibians or reptiles, as required by operational needs.

APPROVED: _____
Director of Administrative Services

DATE: _____